

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An access panel assembly for providing access to a duct through an opening in the duct, said access panel assembly comprising:
 - a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;
 - a cover member adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;
 - a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;
 - said cover member being formed to the shape of the duct.
 2. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sealing member comprises a fire resistant panel and said sealing member comprises a gasket formed from a high temperature resistant material, so that in a closed position said cover member and said sealing member provide a fire tight seal over the opening in the duct.
 3. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said fasteners comprise a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.
 4. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said threaded stud members include a tool-less head for screwing and unscrewing said threaded stud member.

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5. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein said threaded stud member comprises a wing head threaded stud.

6. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the opening in the duct has an irregular shape, and said cover member has a shape to conform with the irregular shape of the opening in the duct.

7. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the irregular shape of the opening includes any one of an oval shape, a circular shape, a rectangular shape, a square shape, and a triangular shape.

8. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct has a plurality of side-walls which define a cross-sectional shape for the duct, and said cover member is formed to span more than one side-wall of the duct.

9. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cross-sectional shape of the duct includes any one of a rectangular shape, a circular shape, and an oval shape.

10. A frameless access panel assembly for providing access to a duct through an opening in the duct, said access panel assembly comprising:

a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;

a cover panel adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;

a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;

said cover panel being formed to the shape of the duct.

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11. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the opening in the duct has an irregular shape, and said cover panel has a shape to conform with the irregular shape of the opening in the duct.

12. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the duct has a plurality of side-walls which define a cross-sectional shape for the duct, and said cover panel is formed to span more than one side-wall of the duct.

13. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein said fasteners comprise a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.

14. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein said spring clips comprise a low profile shape, so that said spring clips do not substantially protrude into the interior of the duct.

15. A field modifiable access panel assembly for providing access to a duct through an opening in the duct, said access panel assembly comprising:

a sealing member adapted to fit around the opening in the duct;

a cover member adapted to fit over said sealing member and cover the opening in the duct;

a plurality of fasteners for coupling said cover member to the duct;

said cover member comprising a material modifiable in the field to conform

to the shape of the duct.

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16. The field modifiable access panel assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein said cover member comprises a metal sheet.

17. The field modifiable access panel assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein said sealing member comprises a fire resistant panel and said sealing member comprises a gasket formed from a high temperature resistant material, so that in a closed position said cover member and said sealing member provide a fire tight seal over the opening in the duct.

18. The access panel assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein said fasteners comprise a spring clip and a threaded stud member, said spring clips being affixed around the edge of the opening in the duct and including a threaded portion for engaging said threaded stud members, and said cover member including mounting openings for inserting said threaded stud members to engage said spring clips, and said sealing member including mounting openings in communication with the mounting openings in said cover member.

19. A method for installing in the field an access panel for providing access to a duct, said method comprising the steps of:

cutting an opening in the duct, said opening having a size sufficient to provide the required access to the duct;

forming mounting holes around the perimeter of said opening;

attaching clip fasteners to the duct around said opening, each of said clip fasteners being in communication with one of said mounting holes;

placing a sealing member around said opening, said sealing member having holes in communication with said mounting holes;

placing a cover member over said sealing member to cover said opening and affixing said cover member to the duct using fasteners mounted in said mounting holes and coupling to said clip fasteners.

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20. The method as claimed in claim 19, further including the step of shaping the cover member to conform to the shape of the duct.

21. The method as claimed in claim 20, further including the step of cutting one or more edges of the cover member.

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